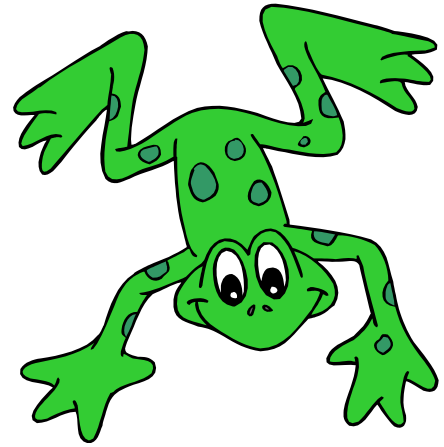


First Grade Leaps Into Learning

October 15, 2010



Reading News

To review what we learned this past week, ask your child the following questions (*correct answers provided*): What letters and sounds did you learn this week? (*f* and *k*) What keys did you learn to read? (*ack* and *ock*)

Next week we will work on the letters and sounds for *r* and *i*. Please practice handwriting at home, especially the cursive capital I. Our new keys will be *it*, *id*, and *im*. The "circle words" will be *of*, *he*, *too*, *is*, *his*, *want*, *help*, *now*, *play*, and *don't*. We will practice writing letters, keys, and words on a 9-box matrix.

Please continue to practice reading the key stories.

Math News

This week we worked on drawing pictures to solve math story problems and writing addition sentences in horizontal form (Math SOL 1.8, 1.9). We used bear counters and told stories about bears in caves. We looked at pictures and chose the addition sentence that matched the pictures. We used Unifix cubes to tell stories about animals in the barn and wrote the addition number sentence for the story (Math SOL 1.5 & 1.6).

Next week we will continue working on the skills and concepts related to addition and subtraction (Math SOL 1.5, 1.6). We will work on solving addition problems in vertical form. *By the end of the year* your child will be expected to know basic addition and subtraction facts to eighteen. You can help your child memorize these facts at home. We'll concentrate on facts to six first. Flashcards, either purchased or homemade, are a great tool to practice the facts.

Science / Social Studies News

Christopher Columbus was our "History Man of the Week" (Soc. St. SOL 1.3). We learned that he is credited with discovering America. We looked at maps and globes to locate the places associated with Columbus. To check your child's understanding of Columbus' place in history ask the following questions:

- What was Columbus' big idea about the Earth?
- How many ships did he have?
- Why didn't his idea about sailing west to get to the Indies work?
- What land did Columbus discover?

Next week we will work on map skills (Soc. St. SOL 1.4 and 1.5). Students need to understand that:

- A map is a drawing that shows what places look like from above.
- A map includes a legend with symbols that represent objects and places.
- Basic map symbols include references to land, water, cities, and roads.

Get out all those old maps around your house, check out the weather map in the newspaper, and have fun exploring maps together!

Writing

Students continue to have opportunities to write. To help them become better writers, I have been modeling what a good writer does by writing and "thinking out loud" while they watch and listen. By the end of the first advisory first graders are expected to be able to:

- Write at least one complete sentence.
- Leave a space between each word in the sentence.
- Write from left to right and top to bottom.
- Share their writing with others.

Save the Date

Our spring field trip to The National Zoo in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for Friday, June 3, 2011. We travel on charter buses and the cost will be approximately \$20 per person. Buses will leave HJB at 7:45 am and return at 4:00 pm. Please mark your calendar, talk to your boss, ask for the day off and start saving your money! All parents are encouraged to join us on this field trip.

Important Dates in October

20 - Fall Picture Day

Fox's Pizza Night 3:00-9:00

23 - PTO Fall Festival 5:00 - 8:00

